

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached two sheets of drawings include changes to Figures 2 and 9. These two sheets replace the original sheets including figures 2 and 9.

In Figure 2, missing reference numeral 38 has been added. Support for this addition is shown on page 9, lines 13 through 19.

In Figure 9, switch 38 was erroneously labeled with numeral 78. The appropriate correction has been made. Additionally, the leaders of reference numeral 86 have been revised to coincide with the specification at page 13, lines 9-12. The specification recites, "...a power supply cable 86 extending from the electrical system of the vehicle to reel switch 36. A normally closed disconnect switch 88 is installed in the cable 86...".

Attachments: 2 replacement sheets
 2 annotated sheets showing changes

REMARKS

Overview

Claims 1-27 remain in the application. Claims 1, 5, 7, 13-16, 18-24, 26 and 27 have been amended. Reconsideration and passage to issuance is respectfully requested.

Revisions to the Specification

The paragraph beginning at page 2 line 1 was amended to correct the status, available vs. unavailable, of the reference vacuum devices. Applicant submit that it is clear from the context of the paragraph that the word “unavailable” was erroneously used.

The paragraph beginning at page 3 line 7 was amended to correct minor editorial problems. The same is true for the following paragraphs: the paragraph beginning at page 4 line 12; the paragraph beginning at page 5 line 3; and the paragraph beginning at page 5 line 11.

As requested by the Examiner, the paragraph beginning at page 9 line 23 has been amended to change ‘zone16’ to ‘zone 16’.

The paragraph beginning at page 13 line 1 has been amended to correct an error in referencing one of the numerals of figure 9. The reference to switch 36 was erroneously stated as switch 37. The appropriate correction has been made.

Applicant believes the changes presented herewith are fully supported by the specification, drawings, and claims as originally filed. No new matter is believed or intended to be involved.

Claim Objections

Claims 1, 5, 7, 16 and 27 were objected to because of various informalities. All of the corrections were made as requested by the Examiner. In claims 1 and 7, line 1, ‘The’ was replaced with ‘A’. The duplicate ‘of the’ was deleted from claim 5. The word ‘and’ was inserted after ‘seat’ in claim 16, line 2. Finally, ‘a’ was inserted after ‘of’ in claim 27, line 1.

Claim Rejections

a) The 35 USC §112 Rejections

Claims 1-27 are rejected under 35 USC §112, paragraph two, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to indicate that the suction hose is stored in the space.

Claim 7 has been amended to indicate that the portable vacuum cleaning unit is placed in the space.

An amendment has been made to claim 13 to indicate the vacuum source. The added limitation calls for a portable vacuum cleaning unit having an internal electric motor for providing a vacuum source. The internal electric motor was previously recited in dependent claim 15. Additionally, 'portable vacuum cleaning unit means' was amended to 'portable vacuum cleaning unit storage means'.

Additionally, claims 13 & 14 were amended to make the subject apparatus consistent throughout claims 13-17. Accordingly, the apparatus is now recited as a "portable cleaning apparatus" in each of the claims.

Claims 14 and 15 were amended to replace 'last mentioned means' with 'disabling means'.

In claim 15, 'said motor' was amended to 'said internal electric motor' reflecting antecedent basis to the motor.

Claims 16 and 17 have been rejected under §112, paragraph two, wherein the Examiner indicated that 'cleaning unit' lacks proper antecedent basis. It is respectfully submitted that the aforementioned amendments to claim 13 have made the rejections of claims 16 and 17 moot.

Claim 18 has been amended to particularly point out that the hose is operatively connected to a vacuum source, the hose is mounted on the reel, and the reel is mounted in the storage space.

In claims 19 and 20, 'last mentioned means' has been replaced with 'automatic disabling means'.

The word 'overriding' has been added to claim 21 to provide the statement of the function of the 'means for'.

In claim 23, 'vacuum cleaning system' has been replaced with 'vacuum source' to particularly point out which element the controls are activating and deactivating.

Claim 24 has been amended to operatively connect a vacuum source to the flexible vacuum hose, and to indicate that the hose is stored in the storage place.

In claim 26, 'vacuum cleaning system' has been replaced with 'vacuum source' to particularly point out which element the controls are activating and deactivating.

Claim 27 has been amended to operatively connect a vacuum source to the flexible vacuum hose, and to indicate that the hose is stored in the storage place.

The claims, as amended, now particularly point out and distinctively claim the subject matter which the Applicant regards as the invention. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's concerns have been remedied. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the §112, paragraph two, rejections of claims 1-27.

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the indication that claim 1 would be allowable if amended to overcome the §112 rejection. Applicant believes that the amendments to claim 1 particularly point out and distinctively claim the subject matter which the Applicant regards as the invention sufficient to meet the §112, second paragraph burden. Applicant respectfully submits claim 1 is in proper form for immediate allowance. As claims 2-6 depend directly from claim 1, they are also in form for allowance.

b) The 35 USC §102 Rejections

Claims 7-8, 13-14, 16 and 24-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. 6,128,804 (Lee). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections, and requests reconsideration of the claims.

"A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described in a single prior art reference." *Verdegaal Bros. V. Union Oil Co. Of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). "The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as contained in the ...

claim." *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor, Co.*, 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 USPQ2d, 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989). The elements must be arranged as required by the claim." MPEP §2131.

Applicant respectfully submits that Lee does not disclose or suggest each and every element as set forth in amended claim 7. Specifically, Lee does not disclose an automatic disabling means to prevent usage of the unit when the vehicle is in the drive mode as required by claim 7. Instead Lee discloses a manual on/off switch 34 for the vacuum system. Lee has a vacuum hose within the passenger compartment, and an auxiliary vacuum hose in the trunk of the vehicle. Lee is silent as to the operability of the vacuum system during a drive mode of the vehicle, such that the hose 42 is always accessible and the vacuum system is always operational at the push of on/off switch 34. Applicant respectfully submits that Lee does not anticipate claim 7, and therefore the rejection of claim 7 should be withdrawn. As claims 8-12 depend from claim 7, Applicant respectfully submit that they also are in form for allowance.

Applicant respectfully submits that Lee does not disclose or suggest each and every element as set forth in amended claim 13. Lee does not provide for a portable vacuum cleaning unit having an internal electric motor for providing a vacuum source. Instead, Lee discloses a vacuum canister 22 in the trunk 50 of the vehicle to provide the vacuum source and a vacuum hose 42 within the passenger compartment. Additionally, Lee does not disclose or suggest any means for automatically disabling the unit when the vehicle is in the drive mode, as described in the arguments presented with respect to claim 7. Applicant respectfully submits that Lee does not anticipate claim 13, and therefore the rejection of claim 13 should be withdrawn. As claims 14-17 depend from claim 13, Applicant respectfully submit that they also are in form for allowance.

Applicant respectfully submits that Lee does not disclose or suggest each and every element as set forth in amended claim 24. Lee does not provide for a storage space for the hose within a reach zone of either the driver or an occupant of the vehicle, along with a means for preventing the hose from being withdrawn from the storage space when the vehicle is in the drive mode. The auxiliary hose 52 of Lee is stored in the trunk compartment 50 of the vehicle. However, the trunk compartment 50 is not within a reach zone of the driver or occupants of the vehicle. For at least this reason, Applicant respectfully submits that Lee does not anticipate amended claim 24, and therefore the rejection of claim 24 should be

withdrawn. As claims 25 and 26 depend from claim 24, Applicant respectfully submit that they also are in form for allowance.

Applicant respectfully submits that Lee does not disclose or suggest each and every element as set forth in amended claim 27. Lee does not provide a storage space for the hose within a reach zone of either the driver or an occupant of the vehicle. Additionally, Lee does not provide a control means for disabling the locking means wherein the control means is within the driver's reach zone and outside of the occupants' reach zones as provided by claim 27. The auxiliary hose 52 of Lee is stored in the trunk compartment 50 of the vehicle. However, the trunk compartment 50 is not within a reach zone of the driver or occupants of the vehicle. For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that Lee does not anticipate amended claim 27, and therefore the rejection of claim 27 should be withdrawn.

c) The 35 U.S.C. §103 rejections

Claims 9-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee. Applicant submits that the obviousness rejection of claims 9-12 as being obvious over Lee is moot in light of the remarks presented to the patentability of claim 7, *supra*. Applicant respectfully submit that claims 9-12 are allowable as depending from an allowable base claim.

Claims 18-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee in view of U.S. Patent 4,903,911 (Sepke) and U.S. Patent 6,416,009 (Iaciofano). Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of Lee, Sepke and Iaciofano does not teach or suggest amended claim 18. Iaciofano teaches a manually movable lever 20 to prevent an unwinding movement of the reel 2. Lee is the only cited reference disclosing an automobile, and Lee is silent as to the operability of the vacuum system during a drive mode of the vehicle, such that the hose 42 is always accessible and the vacuum system is always operational at the push of on/off switch 34.

Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of Lee, Sepke and Iaciofano does not disclose or suggest all of the limitations of amended claim 18, and therefore the rejection of claim 18 should be withdrawn. Specifically, the combination does not disclose or suggest any means for automatically disabling the unit when the vehicle is in the drive mode. As

claims 19-23 depend from claim 18, Applicant respectfully submits that they also are in form for allowance.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed or rendered moot. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to all of the outstanding rejections, and Applicant therefore respectfully requests that this amendment be entered.

No fees or extensions of time are believed to be due in connection with this filing. However, please consider this a request for any extension inadvertently omitted, and charge any additional fees to Deposit Account No. 23-1660.

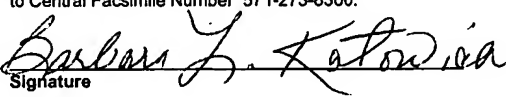
It is respectfully submitted that the claims remaining in the application are allowable over the prior art of record. Early notification of allowability of all of the claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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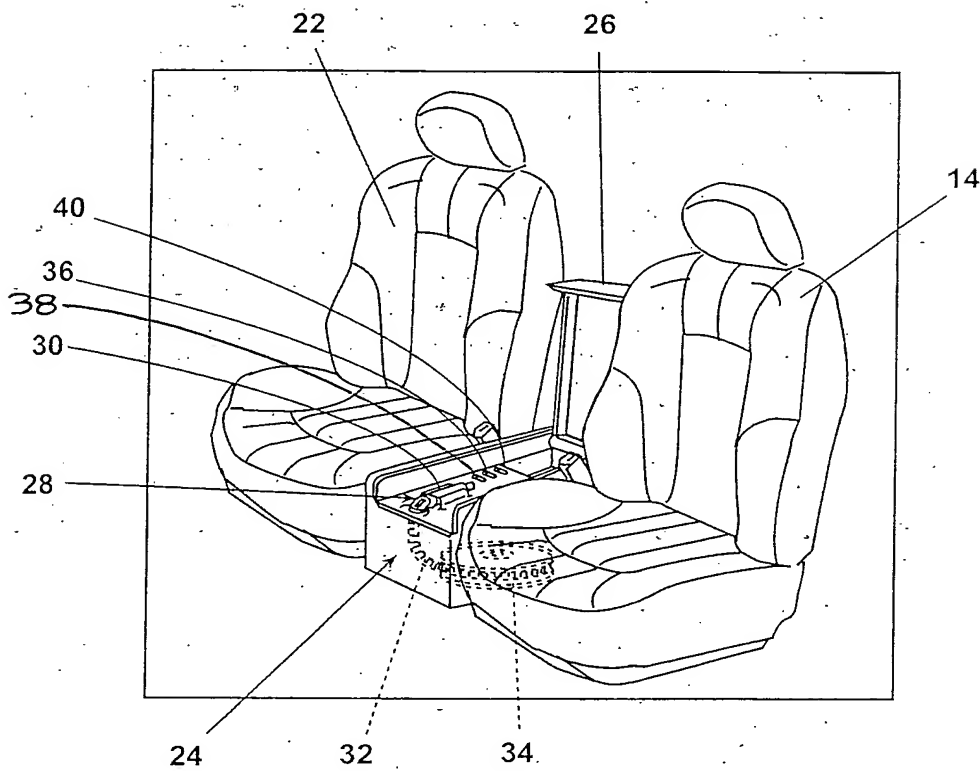


Fig. 2

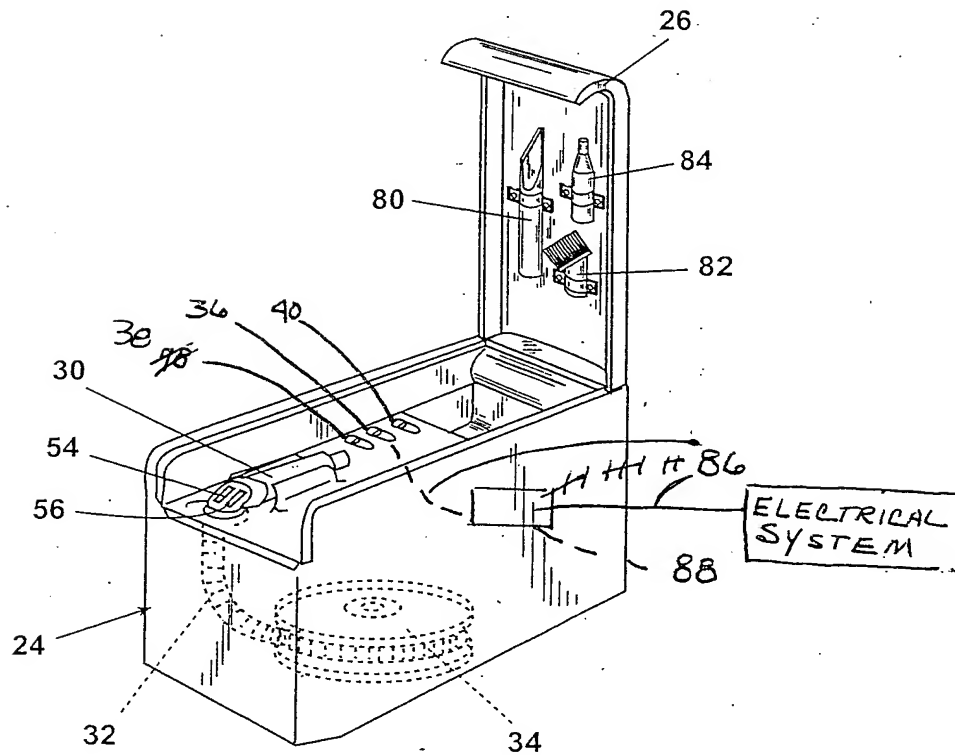


Fig. 9